

# Teacher-Made TASC™ Writing Lessons & Resources

- Commas..... page 1  
*Coordinate vs. Cumulative Adjectives*
- Semicolons..... page 8
- Hyphens..... page 14
- Ellipses..... page 19
- Dashes..... page 25
- Colons..... page 31
- Informational Essay Prompt..... page 39  
*Community Supported Agriculture*
- Argumentative Essay Prompt..... page 42  
*Nationwide Policy on Climate Change*

Stephanie Bevacqua

Rachael Rossi, Ph.D.  
*Orleans/Niagara BOCES*

Brian Webb

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ COMMAS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

When you use a string of adjectives (describing words), you often separate the adjectives with commas.

*He is tall, dark, and handsome.*  
*She lives in an old, dilapidated house.*  
*James is wearing a black, fuzzy coat.*

Sometimes, though, you don't use a comma between two adjectives.

*Mr. Beaumont lives in an exquisite custom houseboat.*  
*I ordered a rich chocolate layer cake.*  
*My blue suede shoes need cleaning.*

**The comma rule comes down to the difference between two kinds of adjectives: coordinate adjectives and cumulative adjectives. Coordinate adjectives separately modify the noun and can be re-arranged.**

*James is wearing a black, fuzzy coat.*  
*James is wearing a fuzzy, black coat.*

**Cumulative adjectives, on the other hand, don't separately modify the noun that follows. Instead, the adjective right before the noun pairs with the noun as a unit, and then the adjective before *that* modifies the unit. An example clarifies this: In the phrase "rich chocolate layer cake," "layer" modifies "cake" so we know we are talking about a cake with layers. Then "chocolate" modifies the unit "layer cake," so we know our layer cake is chocolate flavored. Then "rich" modifies the unit "chocolate layer cake." If you try to rearrange the adjectives, the sentence is awkward.**

*I ordered a rich chocolate layer cake.*  
*I ordered a layer chocolate rich cake. ←awkward*

**The golden rule: Use commas when you could add the word "and" between the adjectives.**

*It was a beautiful, sunny day last Saturday.*  
*It was a beautiful and sunny day last Saturday. CORRECT*

*Three, large, grey squirrels scampered up the tree.*  
*Three and large and grey squirrels scampered up the tree. INCORRECT*  
*Three large grey squirrels scampered up the tree. CORRECT*

*Allen owns several blue, wool sweaters.*  
*Allen owns several blue and wool sweaters. INCORRECT*  
*Allen owns several blue wool sweaters. CORRECT*

**Look at the following sentences. Insert commas between adjectives as needed. Some sentences do not need commas, so write "NC" on the line for these sentences.**

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Our interesting illuminating lesson has come to a close.
- \_\_\_\_ 2. We hope you had a grand old time!
- \_\_\_\_ 3. We drove down the long dirt road to my grandmother's house.
- \_\_\_\_ 4. Across the fence, Mr. Dyster looked over his wild overgrown unruly yard.
- \_\_\_\_ 5. Hollywood's latest blockbuster, Brooklyn, is a particular favorite among older Irish couples.
- \_\_\_\_ 6. The quiet respectful class listened to the Literacy Zone's guest speaker.
- \_\_\_\_ 7. The mighty winter storm howled through the night.
- \_\_\_\_ 8. This is certainly a beautiful engaging poem.
- \_\_\_\_ 9. Brian painted the living room a light green color.
- \_\_\_\_ 10. I bought three boxes of delicious peanut butter Girl Scout cookies from Ann Marie.
- \_\_\_\_ 11. Patrick, thinking tomorrow's exam would be breeze, stayed up late, but he soon found out it was a long tedious essay test.
- \_\_\_\_ 12. The green apple trees grew next to the house where I was born.
- \_\_\_\_ 13. Ed plans to live a long happy life by eating right and staying in shape.
- \_\_\_\_ 14. All around the world, concert trombonists wear white shirts tucked into black cotton pants.
- \_\_\_\_ 15. Kenny was so hungry after track practice that he ate three delicious microwaved pizzas.
- \_\_\_\_ 16. The Wildcats have a new coach and, under his tutelage, they played a long successful season.

**ANSWER KEY** Look at the following sentences. Insert commas between adjectives as needed. Some sentences do not need commas, so write "NC" on the line for these sentences.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Our interesting, illuminating lesson has come to a close.

NC 2. We hope you had a grand old time!

NC 3. We drove down the long dirt road to my grandmother's house.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Across the fence, Mr. Dyster looked over his wild, overgrown, unruly yard.

NC 5. Hollywood's latest blockbuster, Brooklyn, is a particular favorite among older Irish couples.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. The quiet, respectful class listened to the Literacy Zone's guest speaker.

NC 7. The mighty winter storm howled through the night.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. This is certainly a beautiful, engaging poem.

NC 9. Brian painted the living room a light green color.

NC 10. I bought three boxes of delicious peanut butter Girl Scout cookies from Ann Marie.

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. Patrick, thinking tomorrow's exam would be breeze, stayed up late, but he soon found out it was a long, tedious essay test.

NC 12. The green apple trees grew next to the house where I was born.

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. Ed plans to live a long, happy life by eating right and staying in shape.

NC 14. All around the world, concert trombonists wear white shirts tucked into black cotton pants.

NC 15. Kenny was so hungry after track practice that he ate three delicious microwaved pizzas.

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. The Wildcats have a new coach and, under his tutelage, they played a long, successful season.

**1. Which sentence correctly uses a comma(s)?**

- A. The young athlete's last game put an end to his short, unsuccessful career.
- B. Doctors who work in surgery usually wear facemasks and green, cotton scrubs.
- C. Before football games he always drinks three, blue, sports drinks throughout the day.
- D. It is better for the water if you paddle a canoe rather than drive a contemporary, power boat.

**2. Which sentence correctly uses a comma(s)?**

- A. She was puzzled when her groceries arrived in a big, square, blue box.
- B. Brian bought a modern, Japanese, electric car after his old car broke down and could not be repaired.
- C. Susan's favorite lunch is a salad made with dark, leafy greens and fresh bell peppers.
- D. Light, blue sheets provide an airy feel to your bedroom's décor.

**3. Which sentence correctly uses a comma(s)?**

- A. Try brushed, pewter cupboard knobs for accents to your décor that are timeless.
- B. The hockey game featured several, new players.
- C. My interesting, young students ask brilliant questions when we discuss the Cold War.
- D. Thousands of screaming, yelling, and cheering fans filled the arena.

**4. Which sentence correctly uses a comma(s)?**

- A. I found some moldy, cheddar cheese in the refrigerator.
- B. The unprecedented, startling events in Washington have monopolized today's news.
- C. It was a demanding, undergraduate course that few could pass.
- D. I need a new, collegiate dictionary.

**5. Which sentence correctly uses a comma(s)?**

- A. Susan is a mean, history professor, so no one likes her classes.
- B. I wear red, rubber gloves when I wash dishes.
- C. I'll have a medium, diet soda with my lunch, please.
- D. He wrote her name in the smooth, wet sand and watched until the waves washed it away.

**6. Which revision of this sentence uses a comma/commas correctly?**

- A. Kathryn was a pretty popular, girl with a conniving attitude.
- B. Kathryn was a pretty, popular, girl with a conniving attitude.
- C. Kathryn was a pretty, popular girl with a conniving attitude.
- D. Kathryn was, a pretty, popular, girl with a conniving attitude.

**7. Which revision of this sentence uses a comma/commas correctly?**

- A. Rajesh is a brainy, quiet fellow with a patient demeanor.
- B. Rajesh is a brainy quiet, fellow with a patient demeanor.
- C. Rajesh is a brainy, quiet, fellow with a patient demeanor.
- D. Rajesh is, a brainy, quiet fellow with a patient demeanor.

**8. Which revision of this sentence uses a comma/commas correctly?**

- A. Over the years, the little girl has grown to become a confident outspoken, inquisitive teenager.
- B. Over the years, the little girl has grown to become a confident, outspoken, inquisitive, teenager.
- C. Over the years, the little girl has grown to become a confident, outspoken, inquisitive teenager.
- D. Over the years, the little girl has grown, to become a confident, outspoken, inquisitive teenager.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ COMMAS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER KEY**

1). A

2). C

3). D

4). B

5). D

6). C

7). A

8). C

Most often, a semicolon separates two independent clauses that are closely related to each other. These complete sentences could stand on their own.

*I have a big test tomorrow; I can't go out tonight.*  
*I have a big test tomorrow. I can't go out tonight.*

One reason a writer might use a semicolon instead of a period is if she wanted to add variety to her sentence structure; for example, she might use a semicolon if she thought she had too many short, choppy sentences in a row.

**1. You should NEVER use a semicolon and a *coordinating conjunction* to join two main independent clauses. That's the job of a comma!**

**(Recall that coordinating conjunctions join two *independent* clauses. The English language has exactly seven coordinating conjunctions: *and, but, or, for, nor, so, yet.*)**

*James is very hungry. He is going to the grocery store.*

*James is very hungry, so he is going to the grocery store.* CORRECT

*James is very hungry; so he is going to the grocery store.* INCORRECT

**2. You MAY use a semicolon and a conjunctive *adverb*, such as *however* or *therefore*, to join two main independent clauses. Additionally, you MAY use a semicolon and a transitional phrase, such as *for example*, to join two main independent clauses.**

*This is a great location; moreover, the price is quite agreeable.* CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB

*You have done extremely well on your test; consequently, you have earned your equivalency diploma!* CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB

*I have a big exam tomorrow; as a result, I cannot go out tonight.* TRANSITIONAL PHRASE

**3. Why use a semicolon?**

-Use a semicolon when you want to connect two statements. This is typically done when they are related to or contrast with one another.

*Some students write with a word processor; others write with a pen or pencil.*

-Use a semicolon if you need to make a list of items that are separated with a comma (e.g. cities).

*While studying abroad, Kaitlin visited Venice, Italy; Ibiza, Spain; and London, England.*

**REMEMBER:**

**-Semicolons join 2 *independent* clauses.**

The most common administrative calendar includes 15 vacation days; with holidays off, too. INCORRECT

**-Semicolons do not precede coordinating conjunctions.**

The most common administrative calendar includes 15 vacation days; and administrators get holidays off, too. INCORRECT

The most common administrative calendar includes 15 vacation days; administrators get holidays off, too. CORRECT



**Look at the following sentences. Each sentence can take at least one semicolon, so insert semicolons where needed.**

1. I am hot I am wearing a sweater and a jacket.
2. The mayor was very popular he easily won the election.
3. I cannot buy a new car I do not have much money after taking that cruise to Mexico.
4. The man was soaking wet he was standing in the pouring rain without an umbrella.
5. This week, the presidential candidate is visiting El Paso, Texas Albuquerque, New Mexico and Tucson, Arizona.
6. We will select a new representative accordingly, we will need to have candidates' names submitted in advance.
7. I chose not to apply for the summer camp position instead, I will work in the carpenter shop with my uncle.
8. I was going to memorize my speech at the podium, I decided to read it.

**All of the following sentences contain semicolons. Some semicolons are used correctly and some are used incorrectly. If the sentence is correct, write a "C" on the line; if the sentence is incorrect, write an "I" on the line.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. This is a beautiful painting; but I think it is overpriced.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The mail arrived at exactly 9:30 AM; therefore, the excited dog scampered outside to bark at the mail carrier.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. We could go fishing on Saturday; you could borrow a pole from my neighbor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Enrollment in job readiness classes is ongoing; so you could start class at any time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. College typically starts in August, followed by a break for Labor Day; and the next day off is usually for Columbus Day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The course is hard; however, the teacher is pretty funny.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Western Civilization is my favorite class; Calculus is my worst class.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Our savings account needs replenishing because we are almost out of money; which does not include the bills we haven't paid yet.

**ANSWER KEY** Look at the following sentences. Each sentence can take at least one semicolon, so insert semicolons where needed.

1. I am hot; I am wearing a sweater and a jacket.
2. The mayor was very popular; he easily won the election.
3. I cannot buy a new car; I do not have much money after taking that cruise to Mexico.
4. The man was soaking wet; he was standing in the pouring rain without an umbrella.
5. This week, the presidential candidate is visiting El Paso, Texas; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Tucson, Arizona.
6. We will select a new representative; accordingly, we will need to have candidates' names submitted in advance.
7. I chose not to apply for the summer camp position; instead, I will work in the carpenter shop with my uncle.
8. I was going to memorize my speech; at the podium, I decided to read it.

**All of the following sentences contain semicolons. Some semicolons are used correctly and some are used incorrectly. If the sentence is correct, write a "C" on the line; if the sentence is incorrect, write an "I" on the line.**

- I 1. This is a beautiful painting; but I think it is overpriced.
- C 2. The mail arrived at exactly 9:30 AM; therefore, the excited dog scampered outside to bark at the mail carrier.
- C 3. We could go fishing on Saturday; you could borrow a pole from my neighbor.
- I 4. Enrollment in job readiness classes is ongoing; so you could start class at any time.
- I 5. College typically starts in August, followed by a break for Labor Day; and the next day off is usually for Columbus Day.
- C 6. The course is hard; however, the teacher is pretty funny.
- C 7. Western Civilization is my favorite class; Calculus is my worst class.
- I 8. Our savings account needs replenishing because we are almost out of money; which does not include the bills we haven't paid yet.

**1. Which sentence correctly uses a semicolon?**

- A. Baseball season typically runs for six months and includes 162 games; and then the postseason begins.
- B. Baseball season typically runs for six months, or for 162 games; the postseason begins.
- C. Baseball season typically runs for six months and includes 162 games; the postseason begins in October.
- D. Baseball season typically runs for six months and includes 162 games; with the postseason beginning in October.

**2. Which sentence correctly uses a semicolon?**

- A. Attending parent night at your son's school is important; you can meet his teacher and see his classroom.
- B. Attending parent night at your son's school is important; so you can meet his teacher and see his classroom.
- C. Attending parent night at your son's school is important; where you can tour his classroom and meet his teacher.
- D. Attending parent night at your son's school is important so you can meet his teacher; and see his classroom.

**3. Which sentence correctly uses a semicolon?**

- A. Some people think that traveling is too expensive and dangerous, however; I believe that traveling makes you more enlightened and aware.
- B. Some people think that traveling is too expensive and dangerous; but, I believe that traveling makes you more enlightened and aware.
- C. Some people think that traveling is too expensive and dangerous; yet, I believe that traveling makes you more enlightened and aware.
- D. Some people think that traveling is too expensive and dangerous; however, I believe that traveling makes you more enlightened and aware.

**4. Which sentence correctly uses a semicolon?**

- A. The upperclassmen are permitted off-campus to eat lunch; and the underclassmen must eat lunch on campus.
- B. The upperclassmen are permitted off-campus to eat lunch; the underclassmen must eat lunch on campus.
- C. The upperclassmen are permitted off-campus to eat lunch; where the underclassmen must eat lunch is on campus.
- D. The upperclassmen are permitted off-campus to eat lunch; not the underclassmen.

**5. Which sentence correctly uses a semicolon?**

- A. My grandmother rarely goes to bed this early; she's afraid she will miss out on something.
- B. My grandmother rarely goes to bed; this early because she's afraid she will miss out on something.
- C. My grandmother rarely goes to bed this early; for she's afraid she will miss out on something.
- D. My grandmother's afraid she will miss out on something; rarely goes to bed early.

**6. Which sentence correctly uses semicolons?**

- A. We had three professors on our committee; Walt Rinaldo, Professor of Education; Corey Sheeran, Professor of Business; and Jeannine Garcia, Professor of Economics.
- B. We had three professors on our committee: Walt Rinaldo; Professor of Education; Corey Sheeran; Professor of Business; and Jeannine Garcia; Professor of Economics.
- C. We had three professors on our committee: Walt Rinaldo, Professor of Education; Corey Sheeran, Professor of Business; and Jeannine Garcia, Professor of Economics.
- D. We had three professors on our committee: Walt Rinaldo, Professor of Education, Corey Sheeran, Professor of Business; and Jeannine Garcia, Professor of Economics.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SEMICOLONS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER KEY**

- 1). C
- 2). A
- 3). D
- 4). B
- 5). A
- 6). C

Hyphens have a myriad of uses in writing.

**1. Use a hyphen to join two or more words serving as a single adjective before a noun.**

*His favorite snack is chocolate-covered almonds.*

*She is a well-known author.*

However, when the adjectives (or compound modifiers) come *after* the noun, they are not hyphenated.

*He enjoys snacking on almonds that are chocolate covered.*

*The author we are studying is quite well known.*

**2. Use a hyphen when writing fractions and the numbers twenty-one to ninety-nine.**

*One-third of my income goes to paying my student loans.*

*Before the exam, Renée studied for twenty-three hours.*

**3. Use a hyphen to avoid confusion or an awkward combination of letters.**

*After much consideration, he decided to re-sign the petition. (vs. resign from a job)*

*He works hard at his physical therapy and is now semi-independent. (vs. semiindependent)*

**4. Use a hyphen with the a). the prefixes self-, all-, ex- (meaning former); b). the suffix -elect; c). between a prefix and a capitalized word; and d). with figures or letters.**

a). *self-assured*

*ex-wife*

*all-inclusive*

b). *president-elect*

*mayor-elect*

c). *mid-September*

*un-American*

d). *T-shirt*

*X-ray*

*mid-1900s*

**5. Consult your dictionary to determine how to treat compound words. A dictionary will indicate whether to treat compound words as hyphenated (e.g. water-repellent), as one word (waterproof), or as two words (water table). If the compound word is not in the dictionary, treat it as two words.**

*The prosecutor chose not to cross-examine any witnesses.*

*Jennifer kept her charcoal sketches in her notebook.*

*Alice walked through the looking glass into a whole new world.*

**6). Hyphens are used at syllable breaks when words cannot fit completely on one line and must be continued on the following line. \*Note: never break adverbs so the -ly is on its own line.**

*Shelly based her opinions on last month's sales figures and the many, grueling conversations she's had with the audit department.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ HYPHENS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Look at the following sentences. Each sentence contains a word or pair of words that should be hyphenated. Rewrite the sentence on the line.**

1. The family's money saving measures have been helping them to build their savings.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. There are fewer Irish American communities these days.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Before she has surgery on her ankle, she has to see her primary care physician for a pre operative clearance appointment.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Zuiru thought that turning twenty one years old was a lot more fun than turning nineteen.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. At the time of the accident, he was holding a half full glass of water.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Thirty three of the homeowners, or sixty percent, dropped out of the competition.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Liam, who was eight years old, wants to be a record breaking runner when he grows up.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Rosie was ticketed for traveling down a one way street in the wrong direction.

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Graduation is typically held mid June when the weather is pleasant.

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Sean moved to an off campus apartment last spring, but he wishes he stayed in the dorms.

\_\_\_\_\_

11. My dad prefers to dine in family owned cafés, rather than chain restaurants.

\_\_\_\_\_

12. It is a tumultuous election year, but the president elect will not take office until January.

\_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER KEY** Look at the following sentences. Each sentence contains a word or pair of words that should be hyphenated. Rewrite the sentence on the line.

1. The family's **money-saving** measures have been helping them to build their savings.
2. There are fewer **Irish-American** communities these days.
3. Before she has surgery on her ankle, she has to see her primary care physician for a **pre-operative** clearance appointment.
4. Zuiru thought that turning **twenty-one** years old was a lot more fun than turning nineteen.
5. At the time of the accident, he was holding a **half-full** glass of water.
6. **Thirty-three** of the homeowners, or sixty percent, dropped out of the competition.  
\*Note: "sixty percent" is not hyphenated.
7. Liam, who was eight years old, wants to be a **record-breaking** runner when he grows up.  
\*Note: "eight years old" is not hyphenated.
8. Rosie was ticketed for traveling down a **one-way** street in the wrong direction.
9. Graduation is typically held **mid-June** when the weather is pleasant.
10. Sean moved to an **off-campus** apartment last spring, but he wishes he stayed in the dorms.
11. My dad prefers to dine in **family-owned** cafés, rather than chain restaurants.
12. It is a tumultuous election year, but the **president-elect** will not take office until January.



**1. Which sentence uses a hyphen correctly?**

- A. When he got home from work Tuesday evening, Patrick went running for a half-hour.
- B. It was encouraging to see that seventy-percent of the soccer players on the field were women.
- C. Edward, who was eleven-years old, decided he wanted to become a fireman.
- D. Twenty-nine cars were repossessed after their owners defaulted on their loans.

**2. Which sentence uses a hyphen correctly?**

- A. Despite the protestations of her liberal sister, Valerie applied for her concealed-weapons permit.
- B. Kristen and her husband declined the invitation because they have a two-year old child.
- C. After her cruel grandmother passed away, Caitlyn was glad to inherit her very-elegant watch.
- D. The directions said to bake the cake at four-hundred degrees Fahrenheit.

**3. Which sentence uses a hyphen correctly?**

- A. Proud to finally be a high-school senior, Carmen strode confidently onto campus.
- B. Less than one-half of registered voters cast a vote in nonpresidential elections.
- C. My grand-son and his girlfriend taking me to the botanical gardens on Sunday.
- D. They staunchly disagree on the proposed health-care reform.

**4. Which sentence uses a hyphen correctly?**

- A. The mayor hoped no one would notice the twenty-percent increase in taxes.
- B. Suzie needed to slow her heart rate so she decided to walk for the next quarter-mile.
- C. Agatha was very proud when her son was signed to the all-American basketball team.
- D. Jess simply replied that her grand-mother was her inspiration.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ HYPHENS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER KEY**

1). D

2). A

3). B

4). C

In formal writing, the most common way to use an ellipsis is to show that you have omitted words. For example, if you are quoting someone and you want to shorten the quote, you use ellipses to indicate where you've dropped words or sentences.

For example, this is a quote in the book Our Mutual Friend, written by Charles Dickens. "I cannot help it, reason has nothing to do with it; I love her against reason." The proper way to shorten this quote with use of an ellipsis is by writing:

"I cannot help it ... I love her against reason."

*GOLDEN RULE:*

**Do use an ellipsis to show omission. Don't use an ellipsis to change the meaning of a quotation.**

The following text is about the Pony Express:

*They created a mail service between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California, that consisted of riders, horses, and way stations. Most of the riders were young teenagers, often orphans. They were lightweight, hard-working, and brave enough to take on incredible risks. Each rider would mount a fresh horse and ride at breakneck speed to the next station, about ten to fifteen miles away. There the rider would mount another fresh horse and ride on from station to station until he had covered about 75 miles. Then a new rider would take over the mailbag and complete the next section of the Pony Express route. (McGraw Hill Education, 2015, p. 67)*

"They created a mail service ... that consisted of riders, horses, and way stations." CORRECT

"Each rider would mount a fresh horse ... about ten to fifteen miles away." INCORRECT

**This changes the meaning of the quote and leaves out important details.**

"They created ... riders, horses, and way stations." INCORRECT

**They created "a mail service" so this detail cannot be omitted.**

**(Plus: they did not create horses.)**

**When you use an ellipsis, your reader trusts that you've kept the original *meaning* of the words, even though you've taken them out of their original context.**

"The battle, due to foul weather and lack of leadership, was lost." → "The battle ... was lost."

"I wore my new silver, strapless, floor-length, silk dress and matching shoes." → "I wore my new ... dress and matching shoes."

**Ellipses are not used to create emphasis in your writing. That is the job of the dash!**

"Our training is committed to giving you the confidence you need ... and deserve."

INCORRECT

"Our training is committed to giving you the confidence you need- and deserve."

CORRECT

**Rewrite each sentence below omitting text and using an ellipsis.**

1). We were cautioned by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade World History teacher Mrs. Petersen not to run in the halls.

---

---

2). The important point to make, and I cannot say it too often, is that music and art are important factors in a culture.

---

---

3). He couldn't run fast enough, although he tried with all his might, to catch the carriage as it traveled down the road.

---

---

4). When we think about it carefully, and we should be careful to think about it, the use of punctuation is a science and an art.

---

---

5). The children played on all the playground equipment including the swings, the slide, the monkey bars, and the merry-go-round until they were exhausted.

---

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ELLIPSES

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER KEY** Rewrite each sentence below omitting text and using an ellipsis.

- 1). We were cautioned by ... Mrs. Petersen not to run in the halls.
- 2). The important point to make ... is that music and art are important factors in a culture.
- 3). He couldn't run fast enough ... to catch the carriage as it traveled down the road.
- 4). When we think about it carefully ... the use of punctuation is a science and an art.
- 5). The children played on all the playground equipment ... until they were exhausted.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ELLIPSES

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Read *The Gettysburg Address* and then answer the questions that follow.**

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate -- we cannot consecrate -- we cannot hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

-- Abraham Lincoln

Nov. 19, 1863

**1.) Which sentence correctly uses an ellipsis?**

- A. "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth ... a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."
- B. "Four ... years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."
- C. "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought ... dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."
- D. "Four score and seven years ago our fathers ... are created equal."

**2.) Which sentence correctly uses an ellipsis?**

- A. It is for ... the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.
- B. It is ... to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.
- C. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here ... which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.
- D. It is for us ... to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

**3.) Which sentence correctly uses an ellipsis?**

- A. The world will little note ... what they did here.
- B. The world ... can never forget what they did here.
- C. The world will ... remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.
- D. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but ... forget what they did here.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ELLIPSES

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER KEY**

- 1). A
- 2). D
- 3). B



A dash interrupts the flow of the sentence and tells the reader to get ready for some important or dramatic statement. Dashes are not generally used in formal documents. Compare the two sets of sentences below. All of them are grammatically correct, but notice how the dashes make the second part of the third sentence in each set much stronger.

*Always buckle your seat belt because it's the law.*

*Always buckle your seat belt; it's the law.*

*Always buckle your seat belt – it's the law.*

*I gave you my last \$20, so don't waste it.*

*I gave you my last \$20; don't waste it.*

*I gave you my last \$20 – don't waste it.*

**1. Use a dash to separate appositives that contain commas.**

*My best friends – Mike, Kevin, Brian, and Paul – are coming to my party.*

Using commas here would be too confusing:

*My best friends, Mike, Kevin, Brian, and Paul, are coming to my party.*

The other choice you have is to use parentheses. Just remember that parentheses *de-emphasize* the material between them, while dashes *emphasize* it.

*My best friends (Mike, Kevin, Brian, and Paul) are coming to my party.*

**2. Use a dash to set off extra information that you want to emphasize.**

*Everything that could go wrong – from sleeping through her alarm to getting a speeding ticket – did go wrong.*

*The brother – the one who is always in trouble – was arrested again last night.*

**3. Use a dash to summarize, explain, or illustrate a thought.**

*I love Beaver Creek – a small ski area in Colorado with long, challenging runs.*

*The Sixth Amendment – the right to a speedy and public trial – ensures that an accused criminal will not sit in prison for an unreasonable amount of time before his trial.\**

*The third law of motion – the law of reciprocal actions – explains why that contraption with five metal balls found in many medical offices keeps bouncing back and forth.\**

**\*Note: The sentence is still complete and grammatically correct when the appositive is omitted, so you know your dashes are in the proper place! (*The Sixth Amendment ensures that an accused criminal will not sit in prison for an unreasonable amount of time before his trial.*)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DASHES

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Look at the following sentences. Each sentence can take a dash or a pair of dashes. Determine where the dash(es) might go.**

1. My three children Katherine, Patrick, and Carole are traveling to Florida for the long weekend.
2. Love, patience, kindness, understanding these are traits that a good parent must possess.
3. It seems that some students do not know how to incorporate research into their documents or even find reliable research for that matter because they have not been thoroughly taught how to do it.
4. The tasks involved with campaigning soliciting donors, securing voters' support, and recruiting volunteers are arduous.
5. All seven of them Sneezzy, Happy, Grumpy, Sleepy, Dopey, Bashful, and Doc attended Snow White's funeral.
6. According to the Constitution, only one person and that is the President can appoint justices to the Supreme Court.
7. Brendan's latest fling not to be confused with his permanent fling learned that she wasn't the only woman in his life.
8. Superior students notice that I said *superior* will not have to take the test.
9. All four of them Bob, Jeffrey, Jason, and Brett did well in college.
10. The man the one with his hand in the air looks desperate.
11. The professor was unwilling to change the due date even for a candy bar!
12. This is the end of our sentence or so we thought.
13. The less Bryce thought about his situation, the more he calmed down even relaxed a little.
14. The document needed some additional elements a title page, an abstract, and a reference page.
15. The student the one dressed in black, sitting in the corner let out a cry.
16. Laws now restrict the activities of one of the most cunning predators the telemarketer.

**ANSWER KEY** Look at the following sentences. Each sentence can take a dash or a pair of dashes. Determine where the dash(es) might go.

1. My three children- Katherine, Patrick, and Carole- are traveling to Florida for the long weekend.
2. Love, patience, kindness, understanding- these are traits that a good parent must possess.
3. It seems that some students do not know how to incorporate research into their documents- or even find reliable research for that matter- because they have not been thoroughly taught how to do it.
4. The tasks involved with campaigning- soliciting donors, securing voters' support, and recruiting volunteers- are grueling.
5. All seven of them- Sneezy, Happy, Grumpy, Sleepy, Dopey, Bashful, and Doc- attended Snow White's funeral.
6. According to the Constitution, only one person- and that is the President- can appoint justices to the Supreme Court.
7. Brian's latest fling- not to be confused with his permanent fling- learned that she wasn't the only woman in his life.
8. Superior students- notice that I said *superior*- will not have to take the test.
9. All four of them- Bob, Jeffrey, Jason, and Brett- did well in college.
10. The man- the one with his hand in the air- looks desperate.
11. The professor was unwilling to change the due date- even for a candy bar!
12. This is the end of our sentence- or so we thought.
13. The less Bryce thought about his situation, the more he calmed down- even relaxed a little.
14. The document needed some additional elements- a title page, an abstract, and a reference page.
15. The student- the one dressed in black, sitting in the corner- let out a cry.
16. Laws now restrict the activities of one of the most cunning predators- the telemarketer.

**1. Which sentence correctly uses dashes?**

- A. First of all, parents and teachers usually meet twice a year allowing – parents especially – parents who have never visited the school before to ask questions of their child’s teacher.
- B. First of all, parents and teachers usually meet twice a year – allowing parents especially parents who have never visited the school before – to ask questions of their child’s teacher.
- C. First of all, parents and teachers usually meet twice a year, allowing parents – especially parents who have never visited – the school before to ask questions of their child’s teacher.
- D. First of all, parents and teachers usually meet twice a year, allowing parents – especially parents who have never visited the school before – to ask questions of their child’s teacher.

**2. Which sentence correctly uses dashes?**

- A. At these parent and teacher conferences, we will discuss – the child’s performance – including attendance, creativity, and overall behavior to ensure he or she is making progress.
- B. At these parent and teacher conferences, we will discuss the child’s performance – including attendance, creativity, and overall behavior – to ensure he or she is making progress.
- C. At these parent and teacher conferences, we will discuss the child’s performance, including – attendance, creativity, and overall behavior – to ensure he or she is making progress.
- D. At these parent – and – teacher conferences, we will discuss the child’s performance including attendance, creativity, and overall behavior to ensure he or she is making progress.

**3. Which sentence correctly uses dashes?**

- A. The entire school –eager students, cheerful teachers, and authoritative administrators – looks forward to parent and teacher conference day.
- B. The entire school eager – students, cheerful – teachers, and authoritative – administrators looks forward to parent and teacher conference day.
- C. The entire school eager – students, cheerful teachers, and authoritative administrators – looks forward to parent and teacher conference day.
- D. The entire school –eager students, cheerful teachers, and authoritative administrators looks forward to – parent and teacher conference day.

**4. Which sentence correctly uses dashes?**

- A. To begin the conferences – the principal Mr. James Fleming gives – a welcoming speech to all parents and teachers.
- B. To begin the conferences, the principal Mr. James Fleming gives – a welcoming speech to all – parents and teachers.
- C. To begin the conferences, the principal – Mr. James Fleming gives a welcoming speech – to all parents and teachers.
- D. To begin the conferences, the principal – Mr. James Fleming – gives a welcoming speech to all parents and teachers.

**5. Which sentence correctly uses dashes?**

- A. Finally, the conference will conclude after a school tour, lecture, – and a snack break in the cafeteria with a performance by the school – band.
- B. Finally, the conference – will conclude after a school tour, lecture, and a snack break in the cafeteria – with a performance by the school band.
- C. Finally, the conference will conclude – after a school tour, lecture, and a snack break in the cafeteria – with a performance by the school band.
- D. Finally, the conference will conclude after a school tour, lecture, and – a snack break in the cafeteria with – a performance by the school band.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DASHES

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER KEY**

1). D

2). B

3). A

4). D

5). C

A **colon** (:) is used at the end of a complete sentence to introduce a **list**, an **explanation**, or a **formal quotation**.

Use a colon to introduce a series of items. Do not capitalize the first item after the colon (unless it's a proper noun).

*You may be required to bring many things: sleeping bags, pans, utensils, and warm clothing.*

*I want the following items: butter, sugar, and flour.*

*I need an assistant who can do the following: input data, write reports, and complete tax forms.*

**All of these examples are correct because the first statement (before the colon) is a complete sentence.**

Avoid using a colon before a list when it directly follows a verb or preposition that would ordinarily need no punctuation in that sentence.

INCORRECT: *I want: butter, sugar, and flour.*

CORRECT: *I want butter, sugar, and flour.*

INCORRECT: *I've seen the greats, including: Barrymore, Guinness, and Streep.*

CORRECT: *I've seen the greats, including Barrymore, Guinness, and Streep.*

When listing items one by one, one per line, following a colon, capitalization and ending punctuation are optional when using single words or phrases preceded by letters, numbers, or bullet points. If each point is a complete sentence, capitalize the first word and end the sentence with appropriate ending punctuation. Otherwise, there are no hard and fast rules, except be consistent.

I want an assistant who can do the following:

- a. input data
- b. write reports
- c. complete tax forms

The following are requested:

- Wool sweaters for possible cold weather.
- Wet suits for snorkeling.
- Introductions to the local dignitaries.

These are the pool rules:

1. Do not run.
2. If you see unsafe behavior, report it to the lifeguard.
3. Did you remember your towel?
4. Have fun!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ COLONS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A colon instead of a semicolon may be used between independent clauses when the second sentence explains, illustrates, paraphrases, or expands on the first sentence.

*He got what he worked for: he really earned that promotion.*

If a complete sentence follows a colon, as in the previous example, authorities are divided over whether to capitalize the first word. Some writers and editors feel that capitalizing a complete sentence after a colon is always advisable. Others advise against it. Still others regard it as a judgment call: If what follows the colon is closely related to what precedes it, there is no need for a capital. But if what follows is a general or formal statement, many writers and editors capitalize the first word.

*Remember the old saying: Be careful what you wish for.*

Capitalize the first word of a complete or full-sentence quotation that follows a colon.

*The host made an announcement: "You are all staying for dinner."*

Capitalize the first word after a colon if the information following the colon requires two or more complete sentences.

*Dad gave us these rules to live by: Work hard. Be honest. Always show up on time.*

If a quotation contains two or more sentences, many writers and editors introduce it with a colon rather than a comma.

*Dad often said to me: "Work hard. Be honest. Always show up on time."*

For extended quotations introduced by a colon, some style manuals say to indent one-half inch on both the left and right margins; others say to indent only on the left margin. Quotation marks are not used.

*The author of *Touched*, Jane Straus, wrote in the first chapter:*

*Georgia went back to her bed and stared at the intricate patterns of burned moth wings in the translucent glass of the overhead light. Her father was in "hyper mode" again where nothing could calm him down.*

Use a colon rather than a comma to follow the salutation in a business letter, even when addressing someone by his or her first name. (Never use a semicolon after a salutation.) A comma is used after the salutation in more informal correspondence.

*Dear Ms. Rodriguez:*

*Dear Dave,*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ COLONS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Add colons where they are needed in each sentence

1. I wish I had a pet I have always liked animals.
2. My alarm clock is set for 6 45 AM.
3. I play four sports soccer, football, rugby and baseball.
4. I have been really sad today I just found out my puppy Alvin just died.
5. Dear Mr. Jones
6. I love reading all types of books mystery, horror, suspense, and biographies.
7. The friends I play with are as follows Jill, Jack, Tom and Eden.
8. There are four parts to a plant roots, stem, leaves and flower.
9. There is only one reason you failed you didn't prepare for the test.
10. You will need to finish three chores vacuum, mow the lawn, and make your bed.
11. I wish I had a job I'm a great worker and I need the money.
12. I never go to bed until 10 00 PM.
13. I have 3 hobbies I collect coins, I read, and I knit.
14. Glen doesn't have any friends he's always mean to them.
15. To Whom It May Concern
16. You will need the following back to school items pencils, erasers, and markers.
17. The places I like to visit are as follows Italy, France and Canada.
18. There are three rules in my class raise your hand, don't speak out, and stay on task.
19. I'm feeling really sick today I have a headache and I'm nausea.
20. I have three more phone calls to make my mom, my sister, and my brother.
21. At 210 this afternoon, the meeting will start.
22. Please bring these materials employee handbook, schedule, red pen, and highlighter.
23. The meeting should be over by 4 30.
- 24 Notice This will be the last orientation meeting this month.
25. We will discuss rules of conduct at 3 00 and have a short question period.

**ANSWER KEY** Directions: Add colons where they are needed in each sentence

1. I wish I had a pet: I have always liked animals.
2. My alarm clock is set for 6:45 AM.
3. I play four sports: soccer, football, rugby and baseball.
4. I have been really sad today: I just found out my puppy Alvin just died.
5. Dear Mr. Jones:
6. I love reading all types of books: mystery, horror, suspense, and biographies.
7. The friends I play with are as follows: Jill, Jack, Tom and Eden.
8. There are four parts to a plant: roots, stems, leaves and flower.
9. There is only one reason you failed: you didn't prepare for the test.
10. You will need to finish three chores: vacuum, mow the lawn, and make your bed.
11. I wish I had a job: I'm a great worker and I need the money.
12. I never go to bed until 10: 00 PM.
13. I have 3 hobbies: I collect coins, I read, and I knit.
14. Glen doesn't have any friends: he's always mean to them.
15. To Whom It May Concern:
16. You will need the following back to school items: pencils, erasers, and markers.
17. The places I like to visit are as follows: Italy, France and Canada.
18. There are three rules in my class: raise your hand, don't speak out, and stay on task.
19. I'm feeling really sick today: I have a headache and I'm nausea.
20. I have three more phone calls to make: my mom, my sister, and my brother.
21. At 2:10 this afternoon, the meeting will start.
22. Please bring these materials: employee handbook, schedule, red pen, and highlighter.
23. The meeting should be over by 4:30.
- 24 Notice: This will be the last orientation meeting this month.
25. We will discuss rules of conduct at 3:00 and have a short question period.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ COLONS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Insert colons or semicolons into the following sentence where needed. If the sentence is correct as written, put a "C" on the line.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The applications for employment at the manufacturing plant asked the following questions How old are you? Have you ever worked in a manufacturing plant before? What other jobs have you held?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Don't miss the following items that will be on sale during the first week in June ice skates, skis, snowshoes, parkas, ski pants, mittens, etc.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The man said it best: "We are not afraid!"
4. \_\_\_\_\_ When she went to camp, she had to take blankets, sheets, toilet articles, a flashlight, and poison ivy lotion.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ My dad hinted where the Easter egg was under the bushes.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Our School board provides the students with free books, book covers, a notebook cover, notebook paper, and one pencil every six weeks.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Here are the four main uses of the comma (1) to prevent misreading; (2) to separate items in a series; (3) to set off expressions that interrupt the sentence; and (4) to set off introductory phrases and clauses.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ I woke up at 7:30 in the morning.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ John Spoke at the ceremony gallantly "We are all happy to be here."
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The graduate was nervous about leaving for college she felt, safe, secure, and happy in her hometown.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ We will meet at 4:00 in the gym.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ The reasons for the success of the play are obvious it has fine actors, witty dialogue, and tuneful music.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ COLONS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER KEY** Insert colons or semicolons into the following sentence where needed. If the sentence is correct as written, put a "C" on the line.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The applications for employment at the manufacturing plant asked the following questions: How old are you? Have you ever worked in a manufacturing plant before? What other jobs have you held?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Don't miss the following items that will be on sale during the first week in June: ice skates, skis, snowshoes, parkas, ski pants, mittens, etc.
3. C \_\_\_\_\_ The man said it best: "We are not afraid!"
4. C \_\_\_\_\_ When she went to camp, she had to take blankets, sheets, toilet articles, a flashlight, and poison ivy lotion.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ My dad hinted where the Easter egg was: under the bushes.
6. C \_\_\_\_\_ Our School board provides the students with free books, book covers, a notebook cover, notebook paper, and one pencil every six weeks.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Here are the four main uses of the comma: (1) to prevent misreading; (2) to separate items in a series; (3) to set off expressions that interrupt the sentence; and (4) to set off introductory phrases and clauses.
8. C \_\_\_\_\_ I woke up at 7:30 in the morning.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ John Spoke at the ceremony gallantly: "We are all happy to be here."
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The graduate was nervous about leaving for college; she felt, safe, secure, and happy in her hometown.
11. C \_\_\_\_\_ We will meet at 4:00 in the gym.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ The reasons for the success of the play are obvious; it has fine actors, witty dialogue, and tuneful music.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ COLONS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1). Which of these sentences is punctuated correctly?

- A. The scientist's observational research project was about: the relationship between weight loss and the South Beach Diet.
- B. Successful financial planning includes: opening a savings account and spending less.
- C. Katniss has two favorite hobbies: hunting and scowling at people.
- D. A successful workout plan consists of: cardiovascular exercise, weight training, and plyometrics.

2). Which sentence uses a colon correctly?

- A. The State Department advises against travel to: North Korea, Libya, and Syria.
- B. To become a successful reader, you should: use context clues and look up words you don't know in the dictionary.
- C. Your monthly reports should include: a list of students' outcomes, test scores, and hours in class.
- D. There are three things you can do to become a better runner: have a positive attitude, develop an exercise plan, and find a running partner.

3). Which of these sentences is punctuated correctly?

- A. Rosie will join three clubs this year: student council, yearbook, and Model UN.
- B. The teacher's boring lecture was about: the importance of punctuating sentences properly.
- C. He likes ethnic foods such as: ropa vieja, lechon, and bouillabaisse.
- D. The museum curator specializes in: antiquities, sculpture, and photography.

4). Which sentence uses a colon correctly?

- A. Last night's news broadcast was about: March Madness, the heroin epidemic, and the presidential primary election.
- B. After two weeks of deliberation, the jury finally reached a verdict: guilty.
- C. When I graduate, I want to go to: Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales.
- D. The three most important assets a hotel manager can have are: patience, charm, and intelligence.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ COLONS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER KEY**

- 1). C
- 2). D
- 3). A
- 4). B

Read both passages and then write an informational essay explaining what a community supported agriculture program is and how these programs contribute to local food systems. Be sure to use information from both texts in your essay.

Before you begin planning and writing, read these two texts:

1: Local and Regional Food Systems

2: Community Supported Agriculture

As you read the texts, think about what details from the texts you might use in your essay. You may take notes as you read.

After reading the texts, create a plan for your essay. Think about ideas, facts, definitions, details, and other information and examples you want to use. Think about how you will introduce your topic and what the main topic will be for each paragraph.

Now, write your essay. Be sure to:

- Use information from the two texts so that your article includes important details
- Introduce the topic clearly, provide a focus, and organize information in a way that makes sense
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion
- Clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts
- Use clear language and vocabulary to inform about the topic
- Provide a conclusion that follows the information presented

## Local and Regional Food Systems

A sustainable community food system, as defined by the University of California Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, is a collaborative network that integrates sustainable food production, distribution, and consumption in order to enhance the environmental, economic and social health of a particular place. Local and regional food systems have grown in popularity over the past decade as shown by the increasing supply of and demand for local foods.

Local food is defined as the direct or intermediated marketing of food to consumers that is produced and distributed in a limited geographic area. There is no pre-determined distance to define what consumers consider “local;” rather, local food systems simply connect farms and consumers at the point of sale. Consumers, schools, hospitals, and other institutions purchase from farms, or buy farm products that originate from known, local farms, and this preserves the identity of the farm for each item. Each of these varied marketing techniques connects farmers and consumers in the local food system.

As previously mentioned, buying local food has grown in popularity. Some evidence of this growth includes nearly tripling the number of farmers’ markets and the initiation of thousands of farm-to-school programs across the United States. Many restaurants now serve farm-to-table fare and community supported agriculture programs, or CSAs, have become more popular over the past few years. More and more, consumers are finding ways to get their food directly from local farms.



## Community Supported Agriculture

Community supported agriculture programs, or CSAs, provide a direct link between local farmers and consumers by allowing members to purchase a share of a farmer's crop before it's produced each season. This allows the farmer to pay for seed, water, equipment, labor, and other expenses up front, so he or she is less reliant on banks and loans. Each week- usually during June through October- the farmer delivers great tasting, healthful food to predetermined locations. In some instances, members pick up the share directly from the farm. With the growing popularity of vegetable and fruit CSAs, farms that produce dairy, meat, and eggs are now also offering shares.

CSA members share in the harvest; during good growing seasons, everyone benefits. When the season is less bountiful, members shoulder the risk. This type of arrangement helps people to connect back to the earth and the food they eat. CSA organizers often host farm days, inviting members to visit the farm and, in some cases, help in the fields. Many also offer recipes and suggestions on how to cook the unique variety of vegetables provided each week.

Most CSA farmers typically use organic or biodynamic farming methods, minimizing adverse environmental impact and encouraging land ownership. Furthermore, because local farmers connect directly with consumers, this helps to develop a regional food supply and a strong local economy. CSAs cut out the middleman, which lowers costs for both farmers and consumers. CSAs are known for helping to maintain a sense of community. Some are dedicated to serving particular community needs, such as helping the homeless, disabled, or youth and low income groups. To find out more, or to start a CSA in your area, visit [JustFood.org](http://JustFood.org).

Is now the time for nationwide climate change laws in the United States? Should our national government pass legislation to reduce greenhouse gasses?

Weigh the claims on both sides and then write an argument supporting either side of the debate on whether or not the U.S. government should pass nationwide laws regarding climate change. Be sure to use information from both texts in your essay.

Before you begin planning and writing, read these two texts:

1: Now is the Time for Nationwide Climate Change Laws by Michael E. Kraft

2: Now is Not the Time for Nationwide Climate Change Laws by Andrew Morriss

As you read the texts, think about what details from the texts you might use in your essay. You may take notes or highlight the details as you read.

After reading the texts, create a plan for your essay. Think about ideas, facts, definitions, details, and other information and examples you want to use. Think about how you will introduce your topic and what the main topic will be for each paragraph.

Now, write your argumentative essay. Be sure to:

- Introduce your claim
- Support your claim with logical reasoning and relevant evidence from the passages
- Acknowledge and address alternate or opposing claims
- Organize the reasons and evidence logically
- Use words, phrases, and clauses to connect your ideas and to clarify relationships among claims, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence
- Establish and maintain a formal style
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented

# Now Is the Time for Nationwide Climate Change Laws

By:  
Michael E. Kraft

In a new report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said that Earth's climate system is definitely getting warmer. The study also found that humans have probably been the biggest cause of climate change. Our burning of oil, gas and coal is mostly to blame. When we burn these fuels, we create greenhouse gases that heat up the Earth and change our weather. Though these gases pose serious risks to the world's businesses, its environment, and public health, countries cannot agree on how to lower greenhouse gasses.

A major reason for the slow pace of global action is the United States, where we produce more greenhouse gases than any other country on a per-person basis. And we simply haven't stepped up to a leadership position.

However, the United States has hardly been standing still on the issue. More than half of the states and more than a thousand U.S. cities have passed a range of policies. Yet the new regulations and policy plans are not enough to tackle climate change. They also come with no national political commitment. If there was, it might push reluctant nations around the world to do their own part.

A national climate change policy would send a strong signal to the world. It would show that the United States takes climate change seriously, and that it is prepared to step out in front on the issue.

How likely is it that a divided Congress can pass climate change legislation? It is not likely at present. It will not happen as long as Republicans continue to deny the existence of climate change and defend the oil industry at all costs.

Nonetheless, it is essential that Congress at least try. It needs to design and approve a national climate change policy, and it should do so soon. It needs to hold hearings, hear experts, review the evidence, and debate the issue at length to build support.

# Now Is Not the Time for Nationwide Climate Change Laws

By:

Andrew Morriss

Congress should not waste time debating a sweeping climate change law in the coming year. First, our production of greenhouse gases has already fallen on its own. We started using more natural gas because of a new method known as “fracking.” Plus, the economy has been stalled, which means factories are shut down and creating less emissions. This has all been accomplished without Congress doing anything at all.

In addition, we should wait to pass nationwide climate change laws because the current proposals on how to reduce greenhouse gases are all very expensive. Lowering the amount of greenhouse gas produced will be cheaper in the future as technologies improve.

The United States can do next to nothing about greenhouse gases on its own. We shouldn't burden American businesses in attempting to do so single-handedly. China and India are growing rapidly and the additional greenhouse gases they produce will overshadow any cuts possible in the U.S. today.

If we cut greenhouse gases by ourselves, it would be pointless. Furthermore, it would hurt negotiators in any effort to reach an agreement with developing countries like China and India. We shouldn't cut our own production of greenhouse gases before an agreement is reached. If we do, we will have to make even more painful cuts to persuade developing countries to join us in this venture.

A serious approach to climate change is going to touch on many areas of Americans' daily lives. Cutting greenhouse gases is ultimately going to require huge changes in how much energy we use. Energy touches every part of our lives. So, this is a subject that requires careful consideration and extended debate. Discussion, not speed, is what we need.